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Cleanup of asbestos landfill expected by Nov. 1, says EPA

By CAROL COULTAS
Sun Staff

BILLERICA Work is slated to begin immediately on the cleanup of the Johns-Manville asbestos dump in Iron Horse Park, one of six sites under investigation in the park for hazardous waste deposits.

Following on the heels of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announcement yesterday that nearly \$960,000 would be released for the cleanup project, federal and state government officials met last night with local people to discuss the application of that money.

The session was held under the auspices of the Superfund Action Coalition Committee (SACC).

EPA on-site coordinator Robert Ankstitus said work would begin immediately to survey the 15-acre landfill and determine where cover material will be placed to eliminate the health threat of asbestos fibers

Asbestos is a known carcinogen and the landfill site is approximately 300 feet from residential neighborhoods.

"The first phase of the project should be completed in 20 working days," said Ankstitus. "We're looking at a Nov. 1 completion date for the entire project."

There are presently small exposed patches of asbestos fibers at the landfill, according to EPA reports. The federal agency wants to put a 30-inch cover over the entire landfill site to reduce the possibility of fiber release into the air.

Where asbestos is exposed, Ankstitus said, 30 inches of layered gravel, stone, and topsoil will be laid.

In other areas where asbestos is not visible, he said, measurements will be taken to determine how far down the asbestos deposits are, and then cover material added to bring the entire cap to 30 inches.

Air will be monitored at the

Region

of asbestos being released into the air.

Selective samplings for asbestos fibers will also be taken from certain homes near Iron Horse Park to see if the fibers have spread into residential areas.

EPA Deputy Regional Administrator Paul Keough said this would be the first major installment of work to clean up the Superfund site.

He noted that the current agreement between state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) and the owners of the Pond Street landfill to clean up that landfill - also an identified Superfund site - has been consi-

Superfund Records Center

SITE: Iron Horse OTHER: _____
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